

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01727 261321 Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SCEM-02 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIEP-02 PM-09

SSO-00 RSR-01 DODE-00 AID-20 /107 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

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FOR WRAMPLEMEIER NEA/ ARP

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: PRINCE MISHARI BIN ABD AL AZIZ

1. MISHARI LOCALLY REGARDED AS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, BUT WITH PROBABLY LITTLE INFLUENCE LEFT WITHIN ROYAL FAMILY. HE IS RARELY SEEN IN KINGDOM, SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME ABROAD. DURING MIDDLE 50' S HE ATTEMPTED TO START A TEXTILE MILL BUT IT FAILED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT MISHARI' S CLAIMS TO AN OFFICIAL MILITARY POSITION ARE TRUE. IN ADDITION, MISHARI' S CLAIMS TO POSSESSING INFLUENCE WITH PETROMIN APPEAR TO US DOUBTFUL.

2. WE WOULD ADVISE TESOR EXECUTIVES TO CONTINUE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH ABDUL HADY TAHER (NO MEAN BUREAUCRAT HIMSELF) AND TO EXPRESS AS POLITELY AS POSSIBLE, THIER LACK OF INTEREST IN PURSUING MISHARI' S PROPOSALS. WE WOULD URGE,. HOWEVER, THAT IN HANDLING MISHARI, TESORO BE ALWAYS POLITE AND RESPECTFUL OF PRINCE' S ROYAL STATUS. SEEMING INSUFFICIENT RESPECT DUE TO A PRINCE (ESPECIALLY IN WRITTEN FORM) COULD BE USED TO PUT A COMPANY AT A DISADVANTAGE, REGARDLESS

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 01727 261321 Z

OF MERITS OF THE CASE.

3. IF TESOR CONCURS, EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RAISE MATTER DELICATELY WITH EITHER ABDUL HADIY TAHER OR HIS DEPUTY, PRINCE SA' D. IN VIEW OF ROYAL FAMILY CONNECTION WE TEND TO PREFER LATTER. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT PURPORTED THREATS HAD ALL BEEN RELATED BY THIRD PARTY, AND THAT WE WERE NOT IMPLYING THAT THEY STEMMED FROM PRINCE HIMSELF. WE WOULD ADD THAT TESORO EXECS WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH PETROMIN WEEK OF MAY 7 AS SCHEDULED, BUT THEY-- AND EMBASSY -- FELT THAT QUESTION OF POSSIBLE THREAT SECURITY DESERVED TO BE MENTIONED. SUCH PRESENTATION WE FEEL MOST LIKELY TO ELICIT REASSURING DISCLAIMERS.

4. WE RECALL THAT YAMANI HAS EARLIER SAID THAT ALL SUCH ATTEMPTS WOULD BE TREATED AS IF THEY WERE MADE BY "CROOKS", AND THAT NO ONE WOULD BE GIVE INSIDE TRACK ON PARTICIPATION CRUDE BECAUSE OF SUPPOSED INFLUENCE. MIGHT ADD THAT AS JOSTLING AMONG ROYAL AND CIVILIAN AGENTS TRING FOR PIECE OF OIL ACTION BECOMES MORE OPEN NEGATIVE MINISTRY REACTION OR EVEN SOME ROYAL CRACKDOWN COULD BE EXPECTED.
HORAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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